
JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

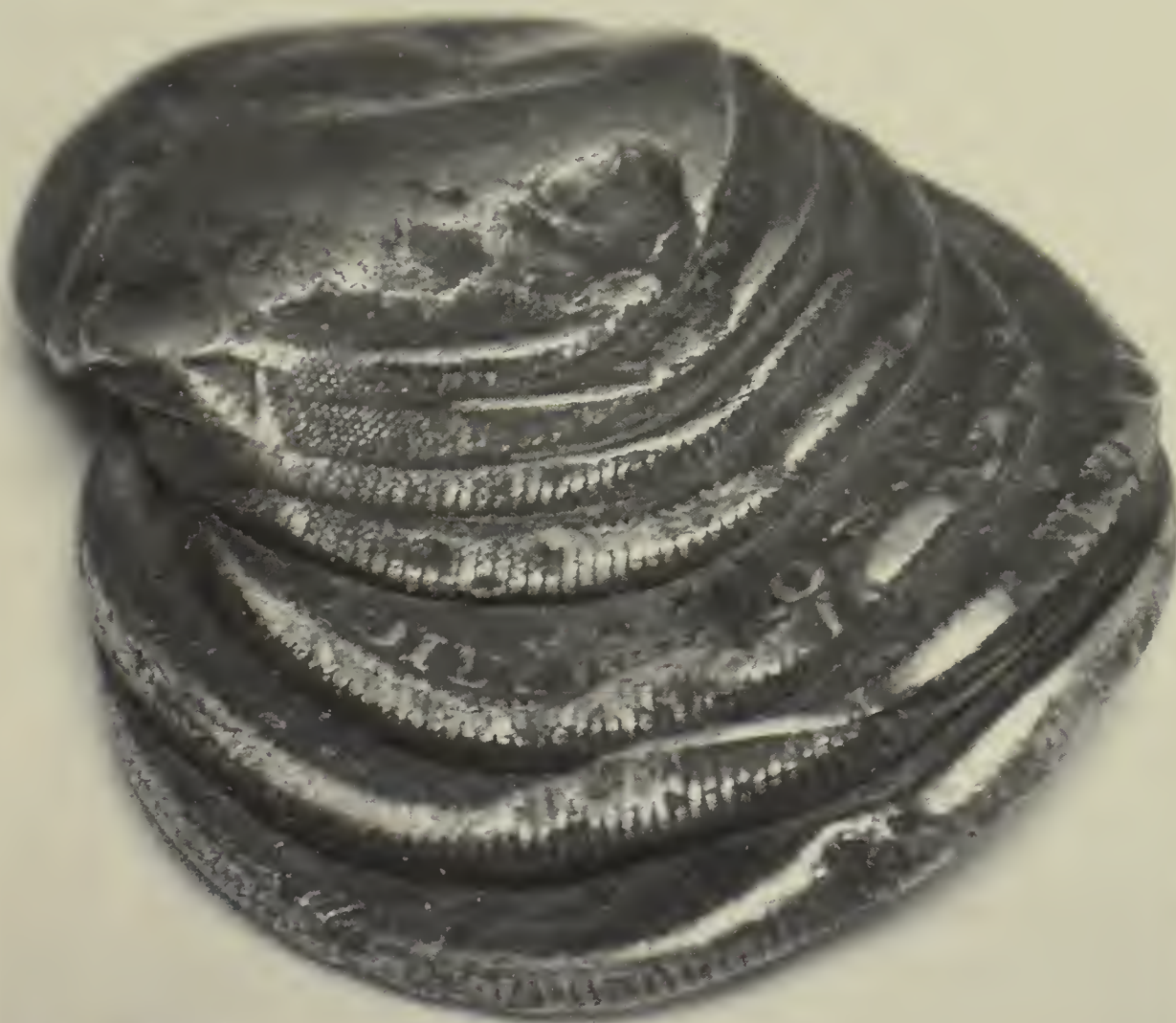
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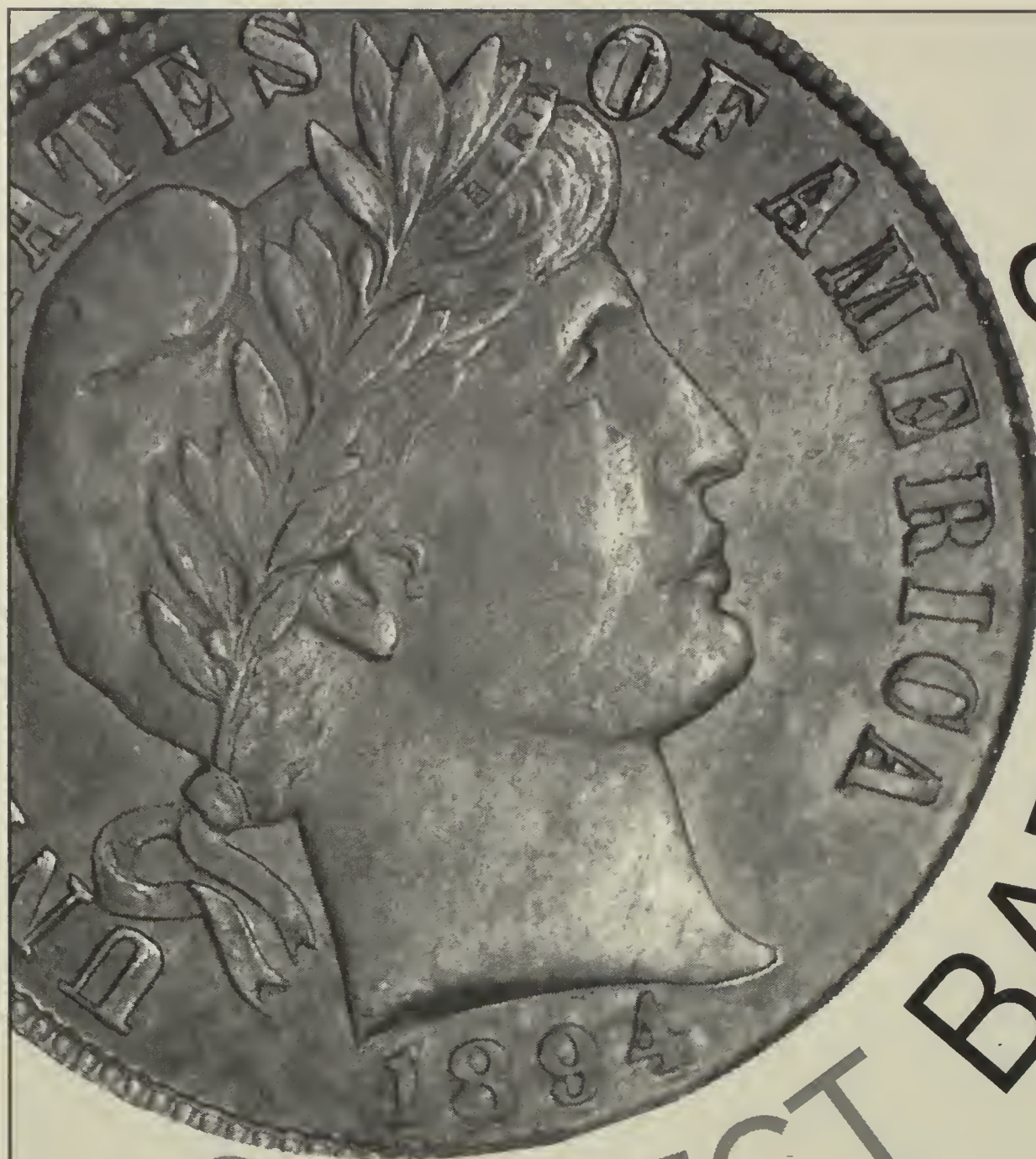
\$4.50 Silver “Blob”



Five Barber Half Dollars atop two Morgan Dollars

See page 15

Photo courtesy of John Frost



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JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Founded in 1989 by Steve Epstein
ANA Club Member C-146266

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Winter is still 'real' in northern Illinois. We may set a February record for total snowfall in this month. Today, it is 40 degrees F with ample sun, but we can expect 2 inches of snow tonight. Things are improving!

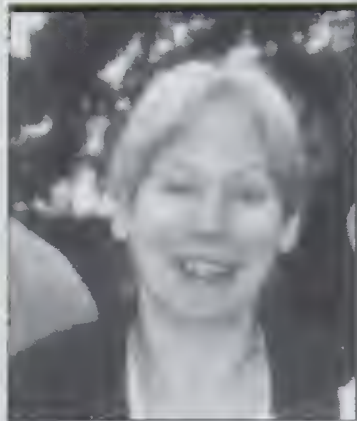
I don't think numismatics is strictly a winter or a summer (or another specific season) endeavor. If you live in a nice climate (Florida is an example), during winter you may find more activity with coin shows than in the summer (I acknowledge Summer FUN exists). A cold winter day seems made for looking over coins which require detailed study or organizing the stack of coins, catalogs, journals, newsletters, etc. needing attention.

Part of the above discussion comes to mind because I do have stacks and piles of unfinished numismatic chores. Also, I plan to attend the ANA National Money Show in Sacramento held March 17 to 20. Some may recall this convention was named the ANA Mid Winter Show. Barber collectors and BCCS members often attend this show along with the balance of collectors of everything numismatic. Dealers you know and want to know will be there, experts will present Numismatic Theatre talks and much more. A BCCS meeting will be held on Friday afternoon, either 3 or 3:30. We are waiting for final time and room confirmation.

I received an Email from someone I don't know asking about a 1901-S quarter. He seemed to have good research and information gathering skills. His father had some coins including some Barber quarters. One quarter, dated 1901-S, was identified as valuable and subject to alteration. The individual brought the coin to a big-city dealer who examined the piece and stated the coin "looked too clean." This evaluation is certainly indecisive. I suggested the writer try to attend the April Central States convention and show the coin to the major grading services and specialist dealers. I asked him to let me know the outcome.

This summer the ANA World's Fair of Money will be held in Chicago, August 16-20. As you may know, the Numismatic Theatre provides a forum for presentations by collectors, dealers, experts and others on a numismatic subject. Consider giving a talk at the ANA convention this summer. Contact me if you wish to discuss an idea or simply go the ANA website [www.money.org], access ANA Convention and select Numismatic Events and finally Numismatic Theatre. There you'll find an application which you can submit to ANA. This undertaking can be fun and allows one to distinguish him/herself in our hobby.

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan



BCCS EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Correction: Member Ralph Vignola has pointed out to me that his Barber Dime shown on page 16 of the 2010 Vol. 21, No 4 Journal is not a 1903-S as stated. It is actually an 1893-S dime.

“Blue, Gray and Greenbacks” is the theme of the 2011 National Coin Week which runs April 17-23. The week-long celebration of coins and currency commemorates the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and the numismatic changes during that conflict, which began at Fort Sumter, S.C. on April 12, 1861.

As part of the activities, the A.N.A. is conducting a Civil War Scavenger Hunt open to all its members. Beginning March 14, weekly video clues will be distributed on the A.N.A. website, challenging participants to hunt for Civil War-related numismatic objects. The activity will follow a virtual tour of battlefields and other important places during the war. Participants who complete the hunt and report their findings are eligible for a prize drawing at the A.N.A. To receive video clues each week, send an email to ncw@money.org with the subject NCW HUNT.

Prizes are a mint state 1864 two cent piece (the first U.S. coin to feature “In God We Trust”), an 1861 Half Cent, and Three Cent pieces.

There is also a Club Trivia Challenge open to A.N.A. member clubs, including the Barber Society. We are invited to take part in a competition testing Civil War numismatic knowledge and research. The trivia challenge will be distributed March 1 (the same day this issue will be mailed to the printer), and we will have until April 30 to complete and return our answers to the A.N.A. I have registered the BCCS and, once I receive the promotional material, I will make it

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS May 25th

available to any of you who are interested in joining the trivia challenge by e-mail or through the USPS. Simply notify me of your interest in joining the challenge.

The prizes include a 1925 Stone Mountain half dollar, a set of Confederate notes, Two and Three Cent pieces, and grading submissions from NGC. Should our club win, we would have a drawing open to any BCCS member who contributes answers to the challenge.

Those of you who have not as yet sent in your 2011 BCCS membership dues will find a reminder included in this Journal. Please mail your dues as soon as possible.

BCCS Treasurer's Annual Report

Opening balance January 1, 2010	\$9548.14
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Receipts:

Dues	3390.00
Advertising	670.00
Back issues	215.00
Total	4290.00

Total funds available:	\$13,823.14
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Expenses:

Journal production	2718.00	(Vol. 21 No. 1-4)
Envelopes	199.85	
Postage	966.80	
Literary prizes	75.00	
Website	27.76	
Bank charge	25.00	
FUN dues	15.00	

Total expenses:	\$4027.41
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Closing balance December 31, 2010	\$9795.73
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My Journey Through the Land of Barber

By **John Lundsten**

I was in my attic four Christmases ago when I found a box containing my childhood coin collection. I had hundreds of coins organized in books that I had not seen for 27 years. Nothing in my collection was rare, but looking at these books of Lincolns, Mercuries, Jeffersons, Buffalos, Washingtons, Indian Heads, Roosevelts, and Kennedys brought back fond memories of searching through rolls of coins, and spending a bit of my hard-earned childhood money on coins offered at local antique shows.

I was hooked again. My journey started at local coin dealers that helped me fill in the gaps of the coins that I needed. I learned something new every time I went into a coin store. My first large purchase was for a 1914-D Lincoln Cent. At the time, spending \$200 seemed like a ridiculous amount of money for one small cent. However, I had wanted one most of my life, and with a mixture of guilt and pride, I purchased that coin.

Soon, I discovered that there were entire series of coins that came before any coins in my collection. The Barber dimes, quarters, halves, as well as the Liberty nickels, the Franklins, Walking Halves, and the Peace and Morgan dollars opened up an entire new world of coin collecting to me. I decided to collect one of each of the U.S. coins available in circulation from the late 1800's to date. With the various mint marks, this amounted to 1,586 coins.

One year later, I had collected 95% of the coins needed to reach my goal. I kept going. I decided to expand my original goal and collect three sets - one for each of my triplet daughters. This also allowed me to upgrade my Barber collection. For my first set of Barber quarters and halves, I had made the mistake of collecting low grade coins. It was very exciting to fill holes with G/VG coins. However, after I upgraded some of my coins to mid grade coins, my existing low grade Barbers were just not as interesting. Over time I learned that it was not just about grading and pricing coins, but finding them. I knew that collecting coins was a monetary investment, but the time investment surprised me. The Barber dimes, quarters, and halves in mid grades were very difficult to find. I was a treasure hunter looking for specific dates and grades at local dealers, coin shows, and on eBay.

Two years into collecting, I flew 4,000 miles across the country on a business trip. While in town, I located a coin store that was highly recommended. I was blown away by the selection of mid grade Barber coins. I purchased 15 Barber halves at wholesale prices. I learned about Greysheet pricing and immediately became a subscriber. These initial coins became the foundation of my Barber half set. I modified my goal to collect mid grade Barber coins at wholesale prices. I found a store that was a one hour drive from my home which had a wide selection of Barber coins at wholesale prices.

Later that same year, I flew back to the dealer with the great selection of Barber coins and purchased 99 mid grade Barber coins and a VF30 1909-S Indian Cent. Back home I purchased a VG 1895-O Barber dime completing my first set of Barber dimes. At this point, my three sets of U.S coins were 98%, 89%, and 81% complete.

I purchased a VG10 1892-O Barber Half which completed my first set of half dollars 1892 to date. Around the same time, I purchased an almost complete (missing 4) set of Barber quarters.

I had recorded every coin purchase in a journal with the grade, date, cost, and location. This helped me keep track of my cost basis and which coins I still needed. By my eighth journal, I started to inventory all coins purchased by series, date, mint mark, and grade. This allowed me to compare new and existing purchases to make sure that each set nicely matched.

During my third year of renewed collecting, I made my third cross-country trip and purchased 77 coins of which 12 were mid grade Barber coins. At this point, the majority of my Barber coin purchases were on eBay since I had picked over most of the known dealers' supplies of mid grade Barber coins. On eBay, I purchased an ANACS G4 1877 Indian Cent completing my first set of cents 1857 to date, and I purchased an ANACS G4 1896-S Barber Quarter. By this time, my three sets of U.S. coins were 99%, 97% and 95% complete.

In January of 2010, I attended the FUN Show in Orlando. I enjoyed the show and meeting other Barber collectors at the BCCS meeting. At the show, I purchased an ICG G4 1885 Liberty Nickel completing my first set of nickels 1883 to date.

Again on eBay, I purchased a PCGS VG 1913-S Barber quarter and then, finally, a PCGS G4 1901-S quarter. It took exactly four years for me to complete a set of Barber quarters. It was Christmas, 2010.

Many people recommend collecting key-date coins first and then the non-key dates because the key-date coins increase in value faster. I did the opposite and I am glad that I did. I learned so much about grading, damage, third-party grading services, secure storage, rarity, strike, luster, and much more by looking at hundreds of thousands of coins. I made my share of mistakes. However, when I finally purchased a key-date coin in a series, I was able to use my knowledge to make a more intelligent decision when it mattered most.

Four years and 6,000 coin purchases later, I am two coins short on completing my first set of U.S. coins: the 1893-S Morgan Dollar and the 1916 Standing Liberty Quarter will complete the set. I have 16 coins to go on my second set, and 24 coins left on my third set including 5 Barber dimes, 6 Barber quarters (2 additional sets of the 3 keys), and only one more 1896-S Barber Half.

My goal is to complete the first set of U.S. coins in 2011 and continue completing the other sets for my triplet daughters. Through this entire process, I have learned to appreciate U.S. coins and, specifically, the difficulty of finding mid grade Barber coins. The journey has been amazing and it is not yet complete.



BCCS Journal Back Issues Discount for Members Only

As the Journal begins its 22nd year in print, we are offering BCCS members the opportunity to obtain back issues at discounted savings. Unfortunately, of the 84 original issues, only 73 are available and several of them are in very limited supply.

You can order: 1 to 25 issues @ \$2.00 each
26 to 50 issues @ \$1.50 each
51 to 73 issues @ \$1.25 each

Please contact me by phone, mail or email if you are interested in purchasing one or several back issues. You can request specific ones or a certain number starting with the earliest available or with the most recent counting backward. Again, I stress there are very few of certain issues left, so please act quickly as it will be first come, first serve.

BCCS Variety Coordinator Introduction

Hello to all. My name is Steve Hustad and I'm a long time Barber collector, since around 1975 or so - on and off – mostly “on” now though! I'm honored to introduce myself as your new “BCCS Variety Coordinator.”

Thanks go to Eileen Ribar and Phil Carrigan for the opportunity to get more involved in an area of Barber collecting that I've always felt was under represented, given the rich hunting grounds out there within these series. My intention is to try and encourage more interest among the membership in variety awareness and collecting.

I'm no expert, and many of you know far more about varieties within certain dates/mints than I ever will, so please consider contributing yourself to this ongoing research as well. My qualifications don't run terribly deep, but I do have some knowledge in this area, along with some definite motivation, interest, and enthusiasm which I've always thought was more than half the battle to achieving anything in life. Let's work this together.

Some of our older members may recall a long series of articles I authored titled “Illustrating Varieties,” spotlighting what I regarded as little known re-punched mintmarks and dates among the big three Barber series. This series ran in our *Journal* from Volume 12, No. 1 (2001) through Volume 17, No.1 (2006). A lot of ground was covered in that series.

In addition to anomalies to mintmarks and dates, I covered what I felt were even more unknown (or very under-appreciated at least) obvious changes to the obverse & reverse Hub types that occurred in all three main series - a couple of times in each. As variety coordinator, I intend to re-visit those distinctive changes over the coming years in order to reacquaint everyone with them. I really believe that when more than one hub type occurs for most mints in a single year's coinage, and when those types are very identifiable, this makes for a highly collectable addition to our collections. But this hasn't been the case, to date anyway. I hope to help change that. A survey on the relative scarcity of each hub type within each denomination/date/mint would be enlightening as well, so we can all begin to get a good idea of the scarcity and value of these.

Another fascinating (okay, to ME anyway) variety that seems to have attracted little attention, or traction as the case may be, is the two reeded collar types in use with the Quarter series in 1892 and 1895 (at least at the San Francisco Mint). These also warrant much more study. Yes, I actually counted the individual reeds

on the coins' edges – definitely an “OCD trait,” but I offer no apologies for digging deeper into Barber mysteries. And yes, the difference is obvious to the naked eye!

Lastly, are the various mintmark and date logotype sizes and styles used throughout these series. These too have definite start and stop points, though in a couple instances there is some overlapping within a couple of dates – again making for more collectable types.

One area I'm very weak in is that of “doubled dies.” Seriously, I tried to get interested in these, but there were just SO many of them, and the differences were SO SLIGHT and hard to see in most cases that I quickly lost interest in this particular variety area – so I'll need your help with these in order to help bring this wayward sheep back into THAT particular fold!

So there you have it. Your new “BCCS Variety Coordinator,” deficiencies and all - but hopefully with the prerequisite enthusiasm!

Please feel free to contact me directly at: shustad@comcast.net. I'd love to hear of your own discoveries, questions, thoughts, and specific article requests in this absorbing and still largely untapped arena of Barber varieties!

Steve Hustad



BCCS “blind” Email List

The BCCS web service has the capability to send messages using a “Blind Carbon Copy” setting, which means everyone on the list gets the email, but nobody's email address is displayed. The advantages to having such a list include the ability to post last-minute BCCS get-togethers at regional shows and other types of Society communications, if needed, without having to wait for the next issue of the Journal. It is completely voluntary, and is open to members only. If you wish to be on this list, please send an email to: BCCS@BarberCoins.org and your name will be added. Your information will not be disclosed to anyone, and you will only receive email regarding BCCS business from the BCCS email account.

2011 F.U.N. Show Wrap-up

From **John Frost**

We had our Winter BCCS meeting at FUN in January, in Tampa. Ten members attended the meeting. We discussed a number of topics, including the current coin market for Barbers, the past Census and Rarity Surveys, and the new project for conducting surveys on varieties.

The Varieties Survey Committee, consisting of Dave Earp, Bob Duzan, and Mike Hayes, has made good progress in laying the groundwork for the varieties surveys. Our plan is to pursue one Variety Census per year, starting with the Quarters early next year.

Dave and Mike were able to be in Tampa with us and showed us their collective progress in trying to sort out which varieties to list, how to reference them, etc. A great deal of work has been done on how to reference the varieties, including cross-referencing entries from David Lawrence's Complete Guide book, Cherrypickers Guide, and Kevin Flynn's Authoritative Guide book. Decisions on which varieties, how many, and how to list them, photos, etc., are still works in progress. Stay tuned. If you would be interested in helping with this progress, we can put you in touch with the committee. Just send us an email at BCCS@barber-coins.org.

"Show and Tell" yielded a number of interesting coins, some found on the show floor.

Hope to see you next year at FUN in Orlando. Bring a friend or two!



Dave Lawrence Barber Books now On-line at DLRC Website

All three David Lawrence Barber coin books - *The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes*, *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*, and *The Complete Guide to Barber Halves*, as well as *The Complete Guide to Certified Barber Coinage* by David Lawrence & John Feigenbaum - are available at the LRC on-line library website: <http://www.stellacoinnews.com/>. Simply click on "Reference Books" and scroll down to the book title you want. Access is free, no membership required.

Barber Bits

2010 Literary Contest Results

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all members who submitted articles. Each article entered received votes which means it was appreciated and enjoyed by your fellow BCCS members.

Our 2011 contest opens with this issue. To be entered, simply submit an article for publication in the *Journal*.

1st Place - \$50 - "We All Have Memories of Our Favorite Dates" by Steve Hustad

2nd Place - \$25 - "Mintmark Positions and Their Scarcity on San Francisco Barber Quarters 1892-1897, Part Two" by Rich Dula

3rd Place - 1 year FREE BCCS membership - "Comments on Barber Quarter 'S' Mint Mark Positions" by David Lange



Please visit the BCCS website at www.BarberCoins.org and check out the page titled "Upcoming coin shows and events." The purpose of this page is to list upcoming coin shows where BCCS members will gather informally. In addition to our annual meetings at the ANA Convention and at the FUN Show, any BCCS member may initiate an informal get-together at a coin show.

If you will be attending a large or regional coin show and would like to meet other BCCS members or Barber enthusiasts, please contact the webmaster and we will post it on this page. This page is updated as gatherings are suggested.



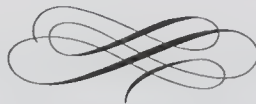
Did you know you can send a quick quip or Barber Bits item for the *Journal* simply by entering a few words on the BCCS website? It's fast and easy! See "Submit article" under "The Journal."

Do you have a particularly attractive Barber? You can post its picture on the website's "Gallery" page. Please send image files to bccs@barbercoins.org.

Barber Barter

Barber Barter is available as a service to any BCCS member at no cost. Its purpose is for trading Barber coins only. Ads are limited to 50 words.

Barber Halves for sale: 1897-S PCGS G-06 \$145; 1907 PCGS VF-20 \$70; 1908-S NGC VF-20 \$155; BCCS 1992 Barber Coin Centennial silver one-ounce medal Gem Proof \$35. Postage is \$2 first item, 50c each additional, optional insurance at USPS rates. David Lange, POB 110022, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211, langedw@msn.com.



First, I'd like to thank Eileen Ribar for sending the back issue of the BCCS Journal with the article by Paul M. Green about the rarity of the 1904-S Barber Half. Great reading. The coin is truly rare above fine.

Secondly, I'd like to ask the membership of the BCCS, Why Barbers? Aesthetically it's not the most beautiful design to grace our coinage. I don't think it can compare to Adolf Weinman's Walking Liberty Half Dollar or James Earl Fraser's Buffalo Nickel. But still, we love and collect them. Why?

It can't be for their historical significance. The founding fathers were long gone, the old west days were over, as was the Civil War. The World Wars hadn't come yet. Why collect Barbers?

For me it's the challenge of putting together a tough set. Barber coins (I collect half dollars) circulated heavily for a long time. Not as many collectors saved half dollars as compared to smaller denominations. Trying to assemble a set in VF/XF with coins that haven't been cleaned is a real challenge.

Two years ago I told a fellow member of the Sussex County Coin Club (NJ) of my plans to try this set next. He said, "You'll never do it." That's when the hunt began.

That's my reason. What's yours?

Thomas Grieves

A Blob from San Francisco

by **John Frost**, with **Larry Brooks**

When the ANA was in San Francisco in 2005, I was helping a friend of mine at his table. A man in his nineties stopped by the table and had an interesting story to tell.

His uncle had been with the Secret Service and worked at the San Francisco Mint just after the great 1906 Earthquake. A station had been set up at the Mint for citizens to exchange coins and currency damaged by the resulting fire. His uncle redeemed a lump of silver coins at face value, \$4.50, for an earthquake survivor.

Up to this point, almost everything exchanged thus far had been just recognizable puddles of melted metal that had to be weighed to determine the face value. But this particular item was unusual in that it was completely identifiable for what it was: 2 silver dollars and 5 half dollars. The uncle paid \$4.50 to the Mint and kept it as a souvenir. He had handed it down to the family through the years until 2005, when the old man, appearing to be in poor health, needed to part with it.



\$4.50 silver “blob” from the San Francisco Earthquake & Fire

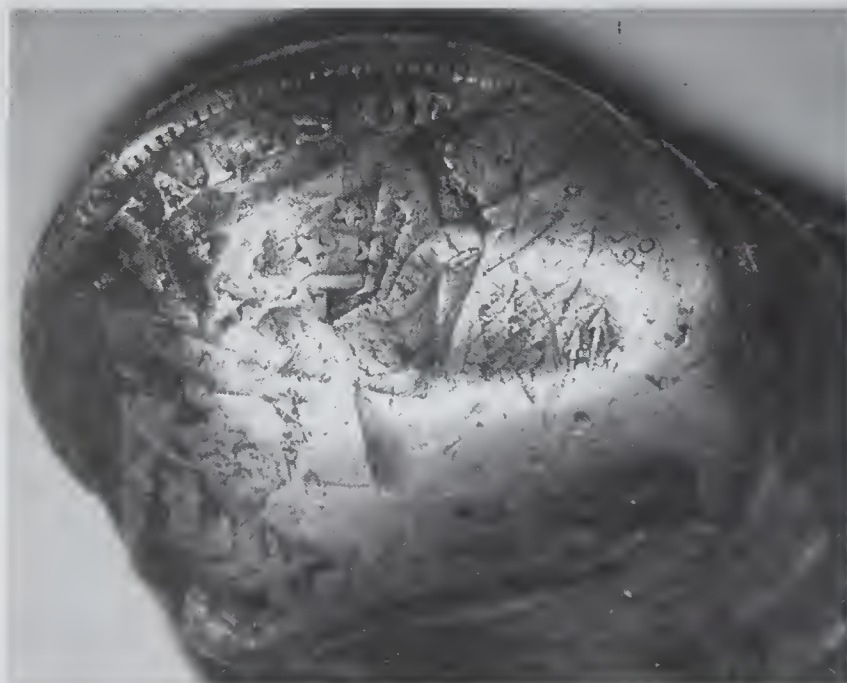
The “blob” is a group of coins that had been caught in the fire and had heated to the point of softening, folding, and fusing together into a single mass, but not quite to the point of turning into a liquid. They were apparently in some type of canvas bag, and the impression of the fabric can be seen on some parts of the artifact.



The folded mass of coins fused together

The old man had originally intended to donate it to the new San Francisco Mint Museum, but felt that he wouldn't live long enough to do it. The Museum, discussed for some time, didn't appear to be happening anytime soon in 2005.

For a Barber collector, this item is particularly interesting, as the 5 half dollars can clearly be identified as Barber Halves, along with two Morgan Dollars. The halves are identified by their reverses, the eagle's wings, the ribbon, stars, and the legend lettering.



Top Barber Half, upper reverse is clear

This next photo shows the bottom of the stack, the 2 larger Morgan Dollars with the halves stacked on top of them. Note the bottom Barber Half shows the right eagle wing tip, the right side of the ribbon, "STATES OF AMERICA" and some of the top stars.



Close-up of bottom Barber Half edge sitting on 2 Morgans

The blob is an interesting artifact of one of the most well-known disasters of the early 20th Century, and the fact that it is identifiable makes it even more fascinating. As the fold in the top Barber Half is right where the mintmark would be, none of the coins can be identified even by mint. Of course, I'd like to think that some of them were high-grade 1904-S halves!

I've taken the blob to a couple of BCCS meetings, in Boston at the 2010 ANA, and at FUN, along with the 2011 Sacramento ANA Money Show. Some of you got to see it first hand. Who knows, it will likely show up again one day!



Barber Quarter Availability Observations: Past and Present

By **Doug Veal**

I've always been a note taker and list maker. Whether it's a list of favorite movies, greatest rock bands, or scarcest Barber quarters, I enjoy putting my opinions and observations down on paper. Recently I came across a list I'd made in 1996 ranking the availability of Barber quarters by mint for the grades VF-AU. This gave me the idea of making a current list and comparing the two to see if the perceived relative scarcity of Barber quarters had changed over time.

The following article presents my Barber quarter availability rankings for the grades VF-AU gathered while assembling Barber quarter sets during two periods of time: 1991-1996 and 2007-2010. An analysis of the rankings by mint follows the lists. My notes and records of Barber quarter availability were made at coin shows and coin shops, and through perusal of mail order listings, periodical advertisements, auction catalogs, and, more recently, at online sites, particularly eBay.

Coins are listed by mint in descending order from least available to most available.

Table 1: 1991-1996 Availability

P	D	O	S
1910	1911-D	1909-O	1913-S
1913	1910-D	1905-O	1901-S
1906	1913-D	1901-O	1896-S
1903	1907-D	1898-O	1897-S
1905	1906-D	1897-O	1893-S
1896	1908-D	1896-O	1892-S
1908	1915-D	1900-O	1914-S
1895	1914-D	1899-O	1912-S
1894	1909-D	1904-O	1908-S
1911	1916-D	1906-O	1907-S
1893		1895-O	1911-S
1901		1903-O	1909-S

P	D	O	S
1897		1902-O	1895-S
1900		1894-O	1899-S
1898		1907-O	1898-S
1904		1893-O	1905-S
1916		1908-O	1903-S
1902		1892-O	1902-S
1907			1894-S
1915			1915-S
1899			1900-S
1912			
1914			
1909			
1892			

Table 2: 2007-2010 Availability

P	D	O	S
1913	1911-D	1909-O	1913-S
1895	1907-D	1901-O	1901-S
1894	1910-D	1906-O	1897-S
1910	1906-D	1898-O	1908-S
1903	1913-D	1900-O	1896-S
1906	1908-D	1896-O	1914-S
1896	1915-D	1897-O	1903-S
1908	1909-D	1905-O	1902-S
1904	1914-D	1903-O	1907-S
1901	1916-D	1902-O	1911-S
1911		1895-O	1905-S
1897		1899-O	1893-S
1900		1904-O	1912-S
1905		1894-O	1898-S
1916		1893-O	1895-S
1893		1907-O	1909-S
1907		1908-O	1915-S
1898		1892-O	1892-S
1912			1899-S
1902			1894-S
1899			1900-S
1915			
1909			
1914			

1892‘P’ Mint Comments: 1913 quarters were much more available in the 1990’s than today, especially in the VF/XF grades. 1910 quarters are still hard to come by, even though they don’t sell for a premium over common dates. 1894 and 1895 quarters are more elusive today than in the 1990’s.

Underrated dates - 1894, 1895, 1896, 1901, 1903, 1904, 1906, 1908 and 1910.

Overrated dates - none.

“D” Mint Comments: 1911-D maintains its status as the scarcest Denver Mint coin, particularly in the grades of XF and AU. 1906-D and 1907-D are less available today than in the 1990’s. 1910-D and 1913-D are more available today than in the 1990’s. All the rest of the dates are fairly common to very common and their availability today is similar to that in the 1990’s.

Underrated dates - 1906-D, 1907-D and 1910-D.

Overrated dates - none.

“O” Mint Comments: The availability of several dates of “O” Mint Barber quarters has changed considerably since the 1990’s. 1909-O remains the scarcest “O” Mint quarter. VF coins of this date are occasionally available today as in the 1990’s. XF and AU 1909-O quarters are rarely seen today as in the 1900’s and, when found, are usually cleaned or problem coins. The 1901-O quarter is just a step behind the 1909-O in availability, and may be even rarer than the 1909-O in original AU condition. I rank the 1906-O quarter today as the third rarest “O” Mint Barber quarter. This may surprise other collectors, but I never see nice coins in the VF-AU grades. This coin has many striking irregularities and its modest price may affect its availability. My ranking of the 1906-O quarter in the 1990’s was much lower. David Lawrence listed the 1905-O quarter as the most underrated coin in the series in *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters, 2nd Edition* in 1994. Even though this coin is still scarce, I find it much more available today than in the 1990’s.

Underrated dates - 1898-O, 1900-O, 1901-O, 1903-O and 1906-O. I don’t consider the 1909-O quarter underrated, although you could certainly argue that it’s underpriced. All collectors know how rare this coin is in original XF or AU condition.

Overrated dates - 1896-O, 1897-O and 1904-O. 1896-O and 1897-O quarters are regularly available today in AU condition and fully priced in all grades. The 1904-O quarter is the most overrated and overpriced coin in the set. It's regularly available and is priced much higher than the scarcer middle series dates 1900-O, 1903-O, 1905-O and 1906-O.

“S” Mint Comments: Although 1901-S and 1913-S quarters are more available today than in the 1990's, they are still the two least available “S” Mint Barber quarters in VF-AU grades. With prices for both coins at much lower levels in the 1990's, they were hardly ever available. Today, with prices of both coins at multiples of their 1990's levels, coins occasionally come to auction. The nicest 1901-S quarter I've ever examined was a choice, original XF-40 coin in the inventory of a West Coast dealer in the mid-nineties. With an asking price of \$9,000, the coin was well over retail price at the time, but didn't sell for over a year. Today, if the same coin were available, it would have multiple bidders in the \$29,000-\$32,000 range. Most 1901-S or 1913-S quarters available today in the VF-AU grade range are problem VF coins, with an ugly or damaged XF or AU coin sporadically mixed in. The third Barber quarter key, the 1896-S, I rank in availability today behind the 1897-S and 1908-S quarters. These two dates are less available than the 1896-S because of their relatively low prices. With prices roughly ten times that of the aforementioned two dates, the 1896-S quarter is occasionally available.

Underrated dates - 1893-S, 1895-S, 1897-S, 1902-S, 1903-S, 1905-S, 1907-S, 1908-S, 1911-S and 1912-S.

Overrated dates - 1892-S and 1899-S. Both coins have been selling recently at prices well above retail but are frequently available. But finding a nice original coin of either date is a challenge.

My observations and opinions almost certainly differ from what you've experienced. Let's hear your thoughts. It will be interesting to see how the availability of these great coins changes in the future.



Barber Coin Collectors' Society

1. Promotes the writing and sharing of information on Barber coins to an organization of individuals who are interested in increasing their knowledge of the series; for Society purposes, Barber coins are defined as primarily U.S. dimes, quarters and half dollars designed by Charles E. Barber, and minted from 1892 to 1916.
2. Gives Barber hobbyists an opportunity to contact other collectors with similar numismatic interests.
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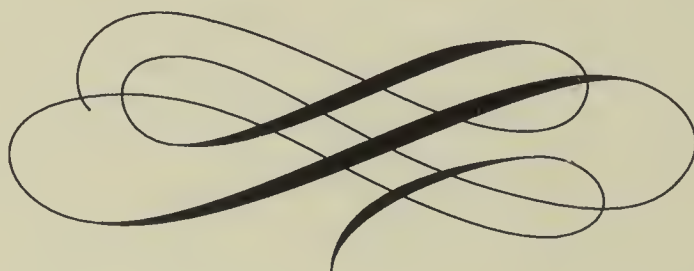
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